

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, and 6-19 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 13-14, 17, 19 have been amended. Claim 2-3 and 5 have been canceled.

Applicants have now corrected the stated informalities in Claim 8.

Claims 13 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have now amended claims 13 and 19 to correct the stated lack of antecedents.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 13 and 19 as amended are free of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the stated claims based thereon.

Claims 1-14, 6-8, 14, and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Agata (USP 6,563,757)

In the Office Action, item 7, the Examiner states that Claims 9-12, 15 and 16 are objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


In order to advance the prosecution of the present invention, Applicants have opted to combine claims 2, 3 and 5 into claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants deem that the amended claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Agata (USP 6,563,757) are now free of rejection, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the stated claims based thereon.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that all the outstanding objections and rejections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn and that the Examiner pass all the pending claims to issue.

Should the Examiner have any suggestions pertinent to the allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,
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